In the Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of configuring nodes for service requests <u>in</u> <u>an Open Grid Services Architecture (OGSA)</u>, the method comprising:

transmitting an <u>OGSA</u> operational rule from a first <u>OGSA</u> service node that receives a request for service to a second <u>OGSA</u> service node that is configured to apply the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to the request for service in response to the request from the first <u>OGSA</u> service node for service<u>, wherein the OGSA operational rule comprises a rule that specifies</u> <u>that the same request made by two different OGSA service nodes is to have different</u> <u>operations provided in response thereto based on which service node made the request.</u>

2.   (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

propagating the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule from the second <u>OGSA</u> service node to a third <u>OGSA</u> service node that is registered with the second <u>OGSA</u> service node as capable of providing service thereto.

3.   (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> method according to Claim 1 wherein transmitting an <u>OGSA</u> operational rule is preceded by:

registering the second node with the first <u>OGSA</u> service node to define the second <u>OGSA</u> service node as available to the first <u>OGSA</u> service node to receive requests for service.

4.   (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> method according to Claim 1 wherein the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule comprises a first <u>OGSA</u> operational rule, the method further comprising:

modifying the first <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to provide a second <u>OGSA</u> operational rule; and

transmitting the second <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to the second <u>OGSA</u> service node responsive to modifying the first <u>OGSA</u> operational rule.

5.   (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a first request for service at the first <u>OGSA</u> service node;

determining that the first request is associated with the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule;

applying the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and

transmitting the propagated first request to the second <u>OGSA</u> service node.

6. (Currently Amended) A̶ <u>The</u> method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a first request for service at the first <u>OGSA</u> service node;

determining that the first request is associated with the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule;

applying the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and

transmitting the propagated first request to a third <u>OGSA</u> service node rather than the second <u>OGSA</u> service node responsive to a parameter associated with the third <u>OGSA</u> service node.

7. (Currently Amended) A̶ <u>The</u> method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a first request for service at the first <u>OGSA</u> service node, the first request for service including a token associated with the first request that further defines how the first request is to be serviced;

determining that the first request is associated with the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule;

applying the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and

transmitting the propagated first request and the token to the second <u>OGSA</u> service node.

8. (Currently Amended) A̶ <u>The</u> method according to Claim 7 wherein the token comprises at least one of a price, geographic location, and quality of service.

9. (Currently Amended) A̶ <u>The</u> method according to Claim 1 wherein the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule comprises a rule associated with at least one of security, error recovery, and business transaction terms/conditions associated with the request for service.

10.   (Currently Amended) A The method according to Claim 1 wherein the OGSA operational rule comprises an requestor identifier that identifies a the first OGSA service node as transmitting the request for service the second OGSA service node.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method of configuring secondary Open Grid Services Architecture (OGSA) service nodes to handle service requests from a primary OGSA service node in a OGSA service node network, the method comprising:

receiving a request for registration at a primary OGSA service node from a secondary OGSA service node including that the secondary OGSA service node is capable of providing a service to the primary OGSA service node;

registering that the secondary OGSA service node is capable of providing the service with primary OGSA service node;

transmitting a response from the primary OGSA service node to the secondary OGSA service node including [[an]] OGSA operational rule that defines how the service is to be provided to the primary OGSA service node, wherein the OGSA operational rule comprises a rule that specifies that the same request made by two different OGSA service nodes is to have different operations provided in response thereto based on which service node made the request;

maintaining the OGSA operational rule accessible to the secondary OGSA service node and associated with the primary OGSA service node;

receiving a request for service from the primary OGSA service node at the secondary OGSA service node; and

providing service to the primary OGSA service node responsive to determining that the request for service is associated with the primary OGSA service node.

12.   (Currently Amended) A The method according to Claim 11 wherein the primary node comprises a first primary node and the OGSA operational rule comprises a first OGSA operational rule, the method further comprising:

receiving a request for registration at a second primary OGSA service node from the secondary OGSA service node including that the secondary OGSA service node is capable of providing service to the second primary OGSA service node;

registering that the secondary <u>OGSA</u> service node is capable of providing the service with second primary <u>OGSA</u> service node;

transmitting a response from the second primary <u>OGSA</u> service node to the secondary <u>OGSA</u> service node including a second <u>OGSA</u> operational rule that defines how the service is to be provided to the second primary <u>OGSA</u> service node;

maintaining the second <u>OGSA</u> operational rule accessible to the secondary <u>OGSA</u> service node and associated with the second primary <u>OGSA</u> service node;

receiving a request for service from the second primary <u>OGSA</u> service node at the secondary <u>OGSA</u> service node; and

providing service to the second primary <u>OGSA</u> service node using the second <u>OGSA</u> operational rule responsive to determining that the request for service is associated with the second primary <u>OGSA</u> service node.

13.   (Currently Amended) A system for configuring <u>Open Grid Services Architecture (OGSA)</u> nodes for service requests, comprising:

means for transmitting an <u>OGSA</u> operational rule from a first <u>OGSA</u> service node that receives a request for service to a second <u>OGSA</u> service node that is configured to apply the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to the request for service in response to the request from the first <u>OGSA</u> service node for service<u>; and</u>

<u>means for propagating the OGSA operational rule from the second OGSA service node to a third OGSA service node that is registered with the second OGSA service node as capable of providing service thereto, wherein the OGSA operational rule comprises a rule that specifies that the same request made by two different OGSA service nodes is to have different operations provided in response thereto based on which service node made the request</u>.

14.   (Canceled).

15.   (Currently Amended) A <u>The</u> system according to Claim 13 further comprising:

means for registering the second node with the first <u>OGSA</u> service node to define the second <u>OGSA</u> service node as available to the first <u>OGSA</u> service node to receive requests for service.

16.   (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> system according to Claim 13 wherein the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule comprises a first <u>OGSA</u> operational rule, the system further comprising:

means for modifying the first <u>the OGSA</u> operational rule to provide a second <u>the</u> <u>OGSA</u> operational rule; and

means for transmitting the second <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to the second <u>OGSA</u> service node responsive to modifying the first <u>OGSA</u> operational rule.

17.   (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> system according to Claim 13 further comprising:

means for receiving a first request for service at the first <u>OGSA</u> service node;

means for determining that the first request is associated with the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule;

means for applying the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and

means for transmitting the propagated first request to the second <u>OGSA</u> service node.

18.   (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> system according to Claim 13 further comprising:

means for receiving a first request for service at the first <u>OGSA</u> service node;

means for determining that the first request is associated with the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule;

means for applying the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and

means for transmitting the propagated first request to a third <u>OGSA</u> service node rather than the second <u>OGSA</u> service node responsive to a parameter associated with the third <u>OGSA</u> service node.

19. (Currently Amended) A The system according to Claim 13 further comprising:

means for receiving a first request for service at the first OGSA service node, the first request for service including a token associated with the first request that further defines how the first request is to be serviced;

means for determining that the first request is associated with the OGSA operational rule;

means for applying the OGSA operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and

means for transmitting the propagated first request and the token to the second OGSA service node.

20. (Currently Amended) A The system according to Claim 19 wherein the token comprises at least one of a price, geographic location, and quality of service.

21. (Currently Amended) A The system according to Claim 13 wherein the OGSA operational rule comprises a rule associated with at least one of security, error recovery, and business transaction terms/conditions associated with the request for service.

22. (Currently Amended) A The system according to Claim 13 wherein the OGSA operational rule comprises a requestor identifier that identifies a the first OGSA service node as transmitting the request for service the second OGSA service node.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for configuring secondary Open Grid Services Architecture (OGSA) service nodes to handle service requests from a primary OGSA service node in a OGSA service node network, comprising:

means for receiving a request for registration at a primary OGSA service node from a secondary OGSA service node including that the secondary OGSA service node is capable of providing a service to the primary OGSA service node;

means for registering that the secondary OGSA service node is capable of providing the service with primary OGSA service node;

means for transmitting a response from the primary OGSA service node to the secondary OGSA service node including an OGSA operational rule that defines how the service is to be provided to the primary OGSA service node, wherein the OGSA operational rule comprises a rule that specifies that the same request made by two different OGSA service nodes is to have different operations provided in response thereto based on which service node made the request;

means for maintaining the OGSA operational rule accessible to the secondary OGSA service node and associated with the primary OGSA service node;

means for receiving a request for service from the primary OGSA service node at the secondary OGSA service node; and

means for providing service to the primary OGSA service node responsive to determining that the request for service is associated with the primary OGSA service node.

24.   (Currently Amended) A The system according to Claim 23 wherein the primary node comprises a first primary node and the OGSA operational rule comprises a first OGSA operational rule, the system further comprising:

means for receiving a request for registration at a second primary OGSA service node from the secondary OGSA service node including that the secondary OGSA service node is capable of providing service to the second primary OGSA service node;

means for registering that the secondary OGSA service node is capable of providing the service with second primary OGSA service node;

means for transmitting a response from the second primary OGSA service node to the secondary OGSA service node including a second OGSA operational rule that defines how the service is to be provided to the second primary OGSA service node;

means for maintaining the second OGSA operational rule accessible to the secondary OGSA service node and associated with the second primary OGSA service node;

means for receiving a request for service from the second primary OGSA service node at the secondary OGSA service node; and

means for providing service to the second primary <u>OGSA</u> service node using the second <u>OGSA</u> operational rule responsive to determining that the request for service is associated with the second primary <u>OGSA</u> service node.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for configuring <u>Open Grid Services Architecture (OGSA)</u> nodes for service requests comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program product comprising:

computer readable program code configured to transmit an <u>OGSA</u> operational rule from a first <u>OGSA</u> service node that receives a request for service to a second <u>OGSA</u> service node that is configured to apply the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to the request for service in response to the request from the first <u>OGSA</u> service node for service<u>, wherein the OGSA operational rule comprises a rule that specifies that the same request made by two different OGSA service nodes is to have different operations provided in response thereto based on which service node made the request</u>.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> computer program product according to Claim 25 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to propagate the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule from the second <u>OGSA</u> service node to a third <u>OGSA</u> service node that is registered with the second <u>OGSA</u> service node as capable of providing service thereto.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> computer program product according to Claim 25 further comprising: computer readable program code configured to register the second node with the first <u>OGSA</u> service node to define the second <u>OGSA</u> service node as available to the first <u>OGSA</u> service node to receive requests for service.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> computer program product according to Claim 25 wherein the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule comprises a first <u>OGSA</u> operational rule, the computer program product further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to modify the first <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to provide a second <u>OGSA</u> operational rule; and

computer readable program code configured to transmit the second <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to the second <u>OGSA</u> service node responsive to modifying the first <u>OGSA</u> operational rule.

29.   (Currently Amended) A̶ <u>The</u> computer program product according to Claim 25 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receiving a first request for service at the first <u>OGSA</u> service node;

computer readable program code configured to determine that the first request is associated with the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule;

computer readable program code configured to apply the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and

computer readable program code configured to transmit the propagated first request to the second <u>OGSA</u> service node.

30.   (Currently Amended) A̶ <u>The</u> computer program product according to Claim 25 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a first request for service at the first <u>OGSA</u> service node;

computer readable program code configured to determine that the first request is associated with the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule;

computer readable program code configured to apply the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and

computer readable program code configured to transmit the propagated first request to a third <u>OGSA</u> service node rather than the second <u>OGSA</u> service node responsive to a parameter associated with the third <u>OGSA</u> service node.

31.   (Currently Amended) A̶ <u>The</u> computer program product according to Claim 25 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a first request for service at the first OGSA service node, the first request for service including a token associated with the first request that further defines how the first request is to be serviced;

computer readable program code configured to determine that the first request is associated with the OGSA operational rule;

computer readable program code configured to apply the OGSA operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and

computer readable program code configured to transmit the propagated first request and the token to the second OGSA service node.

32.   (Currently Amended) A The computer program product according to Claim 31 wherein the token comprises at least one of a price, geographic location, and quality of service.

33.   (Currently Amended) A The computer program product according to Claim 25 wherein the OGSA operational rule comprises a rule associated with at least one of security, error recovery, and business transaction terms/conditions associated with the request for service.

34.   (Currently Amended) A The computer program product according to Claim 25 wherein the OGSA operational rule comprises a requestor identifier that identifies a the first OGSA service node as transmitting the request for service the second OGSA service node.

35.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product of configuring Open Grid Services Architecture (OGSA) secondary OGSA service nodes to handle service requests from a primary OGSA service node in a OGSA service node network, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program product comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for registration at a primary OGSA service node from a secondary OGSA service node

including that the secondary <u>OGSA</u> service node is capable of providing a service to the primary <u>OGSA</u> service node;

computer readable program code configured to register that the secondary <u>OGSA</u> service node is capable of providing the service with primary <u>OGSA</u> service node;

computer readable program code configured to transmit a response from the primary <u>OGSA</u> service node to the secondary <u>OGSA</u> service node including an <u>OGSA</u> operational rule that defines how the service is to be provided to the primary <u>OGSA</u> service node<u>, wherein the OGSA operational rule comprises a rule that specifies that the same request made by two different OGSA service nodes is to have different operations provided in response thereto based on which service node made the request</u>;

computer readable program code configured to maintain the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule accessible to the secondary <u>OGSA</u> service node and associated with the primary <u>OGSA</u> service node;

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for service from the primary <u>OGSA</u> service node at the secondary <u>OGSA</u> service node; and

computer readable program code configured to provide service to the primary <u>OGSA</u> service node responsive to determining that the request for service is associated with the primary <u>OGSA</u> service node.

36.   (Currently Amended) A̶ <u>The</u> computer program product according to Claim 35 wherein the primary node comprises a first primary node and the <u>OGSA</u> operational rule comprises a first <u>OGSA</u> operational rule, the computer program product further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for registration at a second primary <u>OGSA</u> service node from the secondary <u>OGSA</u> service node including that the secondary <u>OGSA</u> service node is capable of providing service to the second primary <u>OGSA</u> service node;

computer readable program code configured to register that the secondary <u>OGSA</u> service node is capable of providing the service with second primary <u>OGSA</u> service node;

computer readable program code configured to transmitting a response from the second primary OGSA service node to the secondary OGSA service node including a second OGSA operational rule that defines how the service is to be provided to the second primary OGSA service node;

computer readable program code configured to maintain the second OGSA operational rule accessible to the secondary OGSA service node and associated with the second primary OGSA service node;

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for service from the second primary OGSA service node at the secondary OGSA service node; and

computer readable program code configured to provide service to the second primary OGSA service node using the second OGSA operational rule responsive to determining that the request for service is associated with the second primary OGSA service node.

37.   (New) A method of configuring Open Grid Services Architecture (OGSA) nodes for service requests in a hierarchical OGSA network, the method comprising:

transmitting an OGSA operational rule from a high level hierarchical OGSA service node to a lower level hierarchical OGSA service node that is configured to receive requests for service from a plurality of other OGSA service nodes, wherein the OGSA operational rule specifies that the lower level hierarchical OGSA service node is to apply different operations to the same request originating from two different OGSA service nodes included in the plurality of other OGSA service nodes.